(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Debt relief scheme In Bihar and Orissa

956. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of fanners and rural artisans benefited by debt relief scheme in the States of Bihar and Orissa;

(b) what is the amount released for Bihar ard Orissa since December, 1994; and

(c) by when the outstanding amount is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY (a) As per information received from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) 37.43 lakhs of beneficiaries in Bihar and 21.53 lakhs in Orissa which include farmers, rural arti sans, weavers end landless labuorera were provided debt.relief under the Agri cultural and Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) Scheme 1990 by various public sector banks, cooperative banks and Regional Rural Banks functioning in these States. (b) and (c) The Central Government had committed to underwrite the entire burden of the relief provided under the ARDR Scheme, 1990 by public sector banks and Regional Rural Banks and to provide 50 per cent °f assistance for the relief provided by cooperative credit ins titutions by way of grant. The other 50 per cent of the relief under the Scheme in respect of cooperative credit institu tions was to be borne by the State Governments. The details of the claims received by NABARD and amounts sanctioned to banks in the States of Bihar and Orissa are given below:—

(Rs. in crores)

State	State Cooperative Bank (SCB)	State Land Development Bank (SLDB)
Bihar		
Claims lodged	400.91	148.15
Amount sanctioned	186.75	88.00
Orissa		
Claims lodged	143.98	36.51
Amount sanctioned	112.35	32.86

Further, NABARD have advised the cooperative banks to submit revised final claims after excluring the relief provided by them to ineligible borrowers.

Release of the balance amount to banks would be considered by NABARD only after receipt of the same from the banks.